

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /059 W
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P R 101747Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4319
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0213

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV PINT PO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR SEES PS/CDS ACCORD

SUMMARY: BARRING A LAST MINUTE HITCH, A SOCIALIST/CENTER
DEMOCRAT GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN SIGHT BY WEEK'S END,
ACCORDING TO HENRIQUE GRANADEIRO, CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S
CIVIL HOUSEHOLD. CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO
AMARAL IS SLATED TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY. CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DO COSTA WILL ENTER THE
CABINET ALONG WITH OTHER CENTER DEMOCRAT FIGURES. DESPITE
INTENSIVE EFFORTS BY THE PRESIDENT, GRANADEIRO SAID, EFFORTS
TO BRING THE PSD ALONG HAVE FAILED. THIS HAD LED TO BAD
FEELINGS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
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LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. PS/CDS ACCORD NEAR: AT LUNCH JAN 10, HENRIQUE
GRANADEIRO, CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S CIVIL HOUSEHOLD, SAID
THAT THE SOCIALISTS AND CENTER DEMOCRATS WERE ON
THE VERGE OF AGREEING TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. HE
EXPECTED THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT COULD COME WITHIN

A COUPLE OF DAYS. A LAST MINUTE HITCH WAS ALWAYS POSSIBLE, AND THE PSD WAS WORKING HARD TO THROW A MONKEY WRENCH INTO THE PROCESS, BUT HE THOUGHT THE CDS WOULD NOT BE FRIGHTENED AWAY.

2. THE TENTATIVE BARGAIN: SOARES HAD JUST OFFERED FREITAS DO AMARAL THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THIS, GRANADEIRO THOUGHT, WOULD CLINCH THE PS/CDS ALLIANCE. BUT THE CENTER DEMOCRATS HAD NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF THE OFFER AND THE PARTY'S REACTION WAS NOT YET KNOWN. GRANADEIRO WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED AT THE PROSPECT OF HAVING AMARAL IN A POSITION OF HIGH VISIBILITY AND HIGH PRESTIGE. AS HEAD OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AMARAL WOULD BE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT EANES. THIS WAS ALSO DESIRABLE. GRANADEIRO PRAISED SOARES FOR HAVING THE WISDOM AND STATESMANSHIP TO OFFER THIS POSITION TO AMARAL.

3. AT THE MOMENT THE CDS IS LIKELY TO GET THREE CABINET POSITIONS. GRANADEIRO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DEPENDED ON WHETHER THE CENTER DEMOCRATS GOT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IF THEY DID, THEN THEY MIGHT RECEIVE ONLY ONE OTHER CABINET PORTFOLIO. AMARO DA COSTA, CDS VICE PRESIDENT, WAS STILL A POSSIBILITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND, IF NOT, HE WAS LIKELY TO OCCUPY SOME OTHER CABINET POSITION. WITH THEIR TWO
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TOP LEADERS IN PROMINENT POSITIONS, AND A JOINT PROGRAM JOINTLY ARRIVED AT, GRANADEIRO THOUGHT THE CDS WAS COMING OUT QUITE WELL IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOCIALISTS.

4. THE PSD: GRANADEIRO SPOKE AT LENGTH ON THE ROLE OF THE PSD DURING THE MONTH-LONG NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT. HE CONDEMNED THE PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR LACK OF PATRIOTISM, EGOISM, AND ALL-ROUND SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS. I ASKED WHETHER THE PSD POSITION FAVORING A FORMAL COALITION WAS SO UNREASONABLE. GRANADEIRO RESPONDED: "THEY NEVER WANTED ONE." HE THEN ELABORATED ON THIS POINT, NOTING THAT EVERY TIME THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER PARTIES APPROACHED THE PSD POSITION, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ONLY BECAME MORE INTRANSIGENT.

5. A QUALITATIVE CHANGE: GRANADEIRO BELIEVES THAT THE ADVENT OF THE PS/CDS GOVERNMENT--WORKING DIRECTLY AND CLOSELY WITH THE PRESIDENT--WILL MARK A QUALITATIVE CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. HERETOFORE THE SOCIALISTS IN A MINORITY POSITION HAD TO RELY ON FLOATING VOTES FOR THEIR MAJORITY. NOW THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT. THE PSD AND PCP IN OPPOSITION WILL FORM A FLOATING

OPPOSITION, WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MORE FIRM.
HE ALSO THOUGHT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS
WILL NOT FIND IT EASY TO BE YOKED TOGETHER IN THE
OPPOSITION.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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